

null  
Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:33:12 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable  
Text:

CONFIDENTIAL

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

April 12, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1750 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MOPS, KPAO, KDEM  
Captions: None  
Subject: IRAQI EXPATS IN UAE CONVEY MESSAGE TO THE USG: HONOR  
YOUR PLEDGE TO THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ  
Ref: None

---

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 01750

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: POL  
INFO: RSO AMB DCM P/M ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA  
DRAFTED: POL:STWILLIAMS  
CLEARED: DCM:RAALBRIGHT

VZCZCADI308  
OO RUEHC RUCNRAQ RHEHNSC RUEAIIA RHEFDIA RUEKJCS  
RUEKJCS RUCJACC  
DE RUEHAD #1750/01 1021337  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 121337Z APR 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9374  
INFO RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J2/J3/J5/UNMA// IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//OSD/NESA// IMMEDIATE  
RUCJACC/USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2/CCJ3/CCJ5// IMMEDIATE  
RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ABU DHABI 001750

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP AND NEA/NGA

KUWAIT FOR ORHA

NSC FOR P/E KHALILZAD AND RHANSON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/12/13  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [KPAO](#) [KDEM](#) [IZ](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: IRAQI EXPATS IN UAE CONVEY MESSAGE TO  
THE USG: HONOR YOUR PLEDGE TO THE  
PEOPLE OF IRAQ

REF: Abu Dhabi 737

1. (U) Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba  
for reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).

12. (U) This cable contains an action request, please see paragraph 7.

13. (C) SUMMARY: Polchief -- after securing agreement from the organizers that she would be in listening mode only -- accepted an invitation to a 4/10 to a gathering of Iraqi expatriates in the UAE organized by Dr. Bashir Al-Samarrai (with whom Special Presidential Envoy Dr. Khalilzad had met during his February visit to the UAE, see reftel). Over 100 expats, most of them professionals, representing Iraq's ethnic and religious mosaic attended the private function held in a local hotel's conference room. They presented an 11-point paper which they asked Polchief to convey at the earliest possible opportunity to the USG. The event proved to be a forum both for an emotional outpouring of anti-regime sentiment, as well as the expression of continued deep concern about Iraq's immediate humanitarian needs. Any jubilation over the regime's demise had already been replaced by deep anxiety over the scenes of chaos relayed by the world's press (no doubt fueled by concern about the fate of relatives still in Iraq).

14. (C) SUMMARY CONTINUED: Among those present was the "Syed" (religious leader) of the powerful Samarrai clan, who had left Iraq only two weeks ago. He spoke eloquently about the need to respect the religious, cultural and social customs of the people of Iraq. Polchief learned from another attendee that the head of the Al-Shammar tribe (Iraq's largest tribe) is also visiting the UAE and was warning that the tribe would not accept humiliating treatment of its members by coalition forces, i.e. the hooding of prisoners. From those Iraqi expats who had managed to escape the regime much earlier, the recent scenes of chaos and destruction back home appeared to engender a strong desire to return and/or assist with reconstruction as quickly as possible -- perhaps resulting in part from what appeared to be almost a sense of guilt that they had escaped the worst of the regime and its death-throes while so many Iraqis had not. These feelings led to many questions about the precise mechanism for expat Iraqis to return to serve their country. We are sure other posts are being similarly queried and would appreciate guidance on how we may respond. Based on the strong representations of the expat community here, it would appear that many in the Iraqi diaspora are eager to make a positive contribution -- one we should welcome. The group agreed to form sub-committees and requested further meetings with the Embassy. END SUMMARY.

-----  
FREE FROM THE WATCHFUL EYES OF THE MUKHABARAT, AN  
IMPROMPTU GATHERING DRAWS A LARGE CROWD  
-----

15. (C) Approximately 100 members of the large Iraqi expatriate gathered on April 10 to voice their concerns about the future of Iraq. Dr. Bashir Al-Samarrai, who met with Special Presidential Envoy Khalilzad in February in the UAE, addressed the group, carefully noting that those gathered did not represent any political party. At the outset, Al-Samarrai commented that the meeting was extraordinary because, for the first time in thirty years, Iraqis were able to gather without the fear that their remarks would make it back to the regime. They were grateful to the U.S. and the coalition but expressed great anxiety about the road ahead. Al-Samarrai read from an 11-point paper addressed to the USG, titled "Iraq for All Iraqis and Equality under the Law," the full text of which is contained in the last paragraph of this cable. Following Al-

Samarrai's presentation, the floor was opened to comments in what evolved into a lively give-and-take during which those who have for too long muted their voices spoke out freely about their homeland. Highlights of both the formal presentation and the informal give-and-take were:

-- The coalition must take immediate steps to stop the looting, burning and, in particular, trashing of the hospitals in Iraq. It is very disconcerting to see coalition troops standing by while buildings are being looted.

-- We must take immediate steps to get supplies, equipment and doctors into the hospitals. There are no medicines, no anesthesia.

-- The destruction of ministries and government buildings is wiping away evidence of the regime's crimes. We must protect the documents with which we can bring those who have committed crimes to justice.

-- The sanctions must be lifted as soon as possible.

-- Travel restrictions must be lifted. Iraqi expatriates must be allowed to return to see their families and help in the rebuilding of their country.

-- Economic sanctions should be lifted.

-- War reparations and debts should be forgiven.

-- The frozen assets of the regime should be turned over to a freely elected government, not to opposition political leaders.

-- Above all, Iraqi's territorial integrity must be respected as must the country traditions, religions and socio-cultural institutions.

-----  
FORMAL LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS  
-----

16. (SBU) Beginning of text:

We are Iraqis from all walks of life and different sectors of Iraqi society: Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans, Muslims (Sunnis and Shi'as), Christians and others. We were and are opposed to the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein and look forward to the day of his downfall.

We are gathered here at this critical moment in Iraq's history to share our thoughts and to express our common desire and wish to convey a message to the U.S. Government through our guest, Ms. Stephanie Williams (the Head of the Political Section at the U.S. Embassy in the UAE). We are all united in the hope for the U.S. and the international community to honor its pledge to Iraq's people by easing the hardships and suffering of the people of Iraq by taking the following steps:

A) The immediate end to the UN economic sanctions imposed on Iraq after the Gulf War.

B) Waive the war reparations imposed on Iraq as a result of the Gulf War.

C) Forgive all debts.

D) We urge the U.S. Government and members of the International Community to protect all of Iraq's assets by temporarily freezing these assets, pending handover to a future legitimate Iraqi Government.

(Note: Al-Samarrai added that these assets should not be given to some unnamed opposition figures who have been asking for them.)

E) We would like to express our opposition to the appointment of discredited leaders who lack credibility and legitimacy and wish to make it very clear that legitimacy is derived from the Iraqi people, not by an outside power.

F) Iraq's oil belongs to the Iraqi people and no one should have the right to decide its future, and concession rights but the newly elected Government of Iraq. (Note: Al-Samarrai commented that unnamed Iraqi expats were contacting oil companies seeking to negotiate contracts. End Note.)

G) We demand the immediate abolishment of all institutions that have been used to oppress the people of Iraq such as the Mukhbarat (Iraqi Intelligence Service), the secret police and the Aman Al-Khaas (special security) and the trial of all those who have been responsible for committing crimes.

H) We demand the reorganization of the armed forces in order to purge it from all elements that have contributed to Saddam's crimes and the armed forces must be subordinate to the people through its elected government and must serve the Iraqi constitution.

I) We call upon the U.S. and the British forces to show respect and sensitivity towards the people of Iraq and their religious, cultural and social customs.

J) We aspire that a semblance of normality return as soon as possible. This is to ensure that the disruptions caused by the war on the educational and health establishments, and other institutions that serve the nation are minimized and adequate resources are directed to these institutions to bolster their effectiveness.

K) We demand that all travel restrictions to our beloved country are lifted as soon as possible.

We declare our "Commitment to Democracy" and the rule of law.

The new democratic system in Iraq must be based on the respect for human rights, separation of powers (executive, legislative, judicial) and the separation of religion from the state.

END OF TEXT

17. (SBU) Post requests guidance on how to direct those Iraqis interested in returning to Iraq, when conditions permit, to serve in the Interim Authority or future governing body or simply to take up their lives there. Will there, for instance, be a screening mechanisms, entry permits, etc.? We also request guidance on how to respond to requests from this group for future meetings with Embassy personnel.

WAHBA